Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of March 3, 2003 to March 7, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ Millions)	January			In January, Alberta building permits were up 2.2% from the previous month, due mainly to a 32.0% increase in non-residential permits. Residential permits were down by 9.5%. For Canada, building permits set a new monthly record of $4.3 billion, 7.2% above the previous high set in April 2002. Residential permits in Canada were 14.4% higher than the previous month, and 21.0% above their level of January 2002. Non-residential permits also increased, rising 8.7% in January.
Alberta	639.5	2.2%	14.8%	
Canada	4344.5	12.3%	14.0%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	February			Alberta's Help-Wanted Index increased to 123.5 in February, up 0.9% from January. Canada's Index fell slightly to 111.4, a drop of 0.2% from the previous month. Eight provinces experienced monthly declines, with the largest decreases recorded in Quebec (-2.8%), Manitoba (-1.5%) and Prince Edward Island (-1.1%). New Brunswick (+2.4%) and Alberta (+0.9%) were the only provinces to record increases.
Alberta	123.5	0.9%	-10.4%	
Canada	111.4	-0.2%	-11.5%	
Rigs Drilling	February			In February, the number of active rigs drilling in Alberta increased for the fourth consecutive month. Drilling was up by 3.0% from January, and up 15.6% from the same period last year. February's active rig count of 414 was the highest level in two years (since February 2001).
	414	3.0%	15.6%	